

### AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for the decomposition of  $N_2O$  to  $N_2$  and  $O_2$  comprising: decomposing  $N_2O$  to  $N_2$  and  $O_2$  at a temperature of between 700 and 1 000°C and at a HSV of more than ~~about~~ 50,000  $h^{-1}$  in the presence of a catalyst that comprises a mixed oxide of zirconium and of cerium predominantly existing in the form of a solid solution.

2. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst exhibits an effective specific surface of greater than 25  $m^2/g$ .

3. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  $ZrO_2/CeO_2$  ratio by weight in the catalyst is between 80/20 and 20/80.

4. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst also comprises yttrium.

5. (currently amended): The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the catalyst has a specific surface of between 60 and 150  $m^2/g$  when fresh.

6. (currently amended): A process for the decomposition to  $N_2$  and  $O_2$  of  $N_2O$  present in the effluent from a unit for the production of nitric acid, comprising: decomposing  $N_2O$  to  $N_2$  and  $O_2$  with a catalyst that comprises a mixed oxide of zirconium and of cerium in the form of a solid solution that is positioned under at least one platinum gauze of the reactor for the oxidation of ammonia, wherein the decomposition is carried out at a temperature of between 700°C and 1000°C and at a HSV of more than ~~about~~ 50,000  $h^{-1}$ .

7. (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  $ZrO_2/CeO_2$  ratio by weight in the catalyst is between 70/30 and 30/70.